

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1998

781B0839

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1016

Introduced by: Representatives Windhorst, Apa, Belatti, Duenwald, Eccarius, Fitzgerald, Hagen, Haley, Jaspers, Koetzle, Koskan, Lucas, Napoli, Roe, Smidt, and Wick and Senators Staggers, Aker, Albers, Brosz, Johnson (William), Lawler, and Shoener

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Proclaiming December fifteenth, Bill of Rights Day.

2 WHEREAS, our Founding Fathers, having fought a revolution to throw off tyranny and
3 secure the blessings of liberty to their countrymen and their posterity, did ordain and establish
4 a government bound by a Constitution, the law of this great land; and

5 WHEREAS, the representatives of a number of the States, understanding from their study
6 of history that governments tend to abuse their powers, refused to enter their States into the
7 Union without restrictive clauses in the Constitution declaring what the government was not
8 allowed to do; and

9 WHEREAS, these restrictive clauses were added in the form of the first ten Amendments to
10 the United States Constitution, and were thereafter known collectively as the Bill of Rights; and

11 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights recognizes and guarantees, against infringement by
12 government, the preexisting and unalienable individual rights and freedoms for which peoples
13 of all races have struggled for thousands of years, and which were granted not by our
14 government, but by our Creator; and

1 WHEREAS, in order to preserve these rights, great numbers of our Forefathers, and men and
2 women of our armed forces and uniformed services, and of our citizenry, have fought, suffered,
3 sacrificed, and died; and

4 WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights were ratified on December 15, 1791; and

5 WHEREAS, the anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights provides a historic
6 opportunity for all Americans to reflect upon the meaning and importance of the Bill of Rights,
7 to realize and ponder the sacrifices and achievements of the Founders, and to understand and
8 appreciate the rights and responsibilities of citizenship of this great nation:

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
10 third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the
11 Legislature hereby proclaims December fifteenth of every year be designated a working holiday
12 named "Bill of Rights Day," encourages our citizens to observe this day, fly the flag, and read
13 the Bill of Rights for themselves and to their children, urges all primary and secondary schools
14 to take this day to reflect, with their pupils and students, upon the meaning and importance of
15 each of the ten Amendments which make up the Bill of Rights, and hereby proclaims that the first
16 annual Bill of Rights Day in South Dakota shall be on December 15, 1998.